THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K ADVANI): (a) to (c) A meeting of political parties was held on 22nd May, 1998, to consider the question of delimitation. At this meeting it was decided that as per article 82 of the Constitution, fresh delimitation would be mandatory after publication of the figures of the first census taken after the year 2000 and as the year 2000 was close by, there was no need to amend the Constitution immediately for the purpose of enabling fresh readjustment of constituencies. It was decided that the existing position may continue till fresh delimitation became due as per existing Constitutional provisions.

Review of Tada Cases

2683. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons detained under Tada in various States as on date;

(b) whether Government propose to review their cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to the information received from the State Government/UT Administrations there are 1022 persons under detention under TADA.

(b) and (c) Pending TADA cases filed by state police are regularly reviewed by the State Review Committee and those filed by CBI by the Central Review Committee as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

As per available information, subsequent to reviews carried out, TADA charges have been dropped against as many as 23901 persons. Now, most of the cases that remain, pertain to serious terrorist crimes. Instructions have been issued to state government to expedite the disposal of these cases by designated TADA courts and not to seek adjournments.

Pak Firing Along LOC

2684. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Indian Express of November 7, 1998, captioned "Pak shells haunt Tangdhar even in death";

(b) if so, the number and details of village, along the LOC, their population and total area so affected by continuous shelling by Pak troops from across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir; and the number of persons, including women and children killed in such shelling during the past three months; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect them and to provide them due security of life against shelling and firing by Pak troops, by way of shifting them to safer places or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of villages of Kargil, Gurez, Karnah, Keran, Tangdhar, Machhel, Uri, Rampur, Punch, Nawshera, Sunderbani, Krishnaghati, Bhimberghali, Palanwala, etc. areas on the LOC have been subjected to shelling and firing by Pak troops in J&K. 7 civilians including 3 women were killed in the shelling by Pak troops during the period Sept. to Nov. 1998.

Appropriate retaliatory action in response to the cross border shelling is taken by the Security Forces to ensure the security of life and property on the Indian side. The State Govt. is taking various measures to provide safety and relief to the victims of cross border firing. State Government has been advised that

they can take up construction of bunkers/ shelter sheds under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). State Government has announced free rations for victims of border firing. Ex-gratia payment is given to the next of kin of those killed and injured. In Kaksar, being severely affected village, State Government provided CGI sheets and funds to house holds and 85 numbers of bunkers were constructed by the people close to their houses since Oct., 1997.

Palace Acquisition Bill

2685. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since notified the Palace Acquisition Bill;

(b) whether the lobby of the princes has approached the Government not to notity the bill; and

(c) whether Government have any reservation about the validity of the bill, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The assent to the Mysore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Bill, 1998 has been conveyed to the Government of Karnataka on November 27, 1998. Notification of the Bill is done by the State Government.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका (एन०डी०एम०सी०) द्वारा अनियमित बिल भेजे जाना

2686. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका विगत तीन वर्षों से सरकारी आबंटियों को बिजली के बिल अनियमित ढंग से भेज रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि अनियमित बिलों के भुगतान से सरकारी कर्मचारियों के मासिक बजट पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकारी कर्मचारियों के बिजली के बिलों को नियमित ढंग से भेजने के लिए कौन-कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ताकि वेतन भोगी कर्मचारियों के मासिक बजट पर बुरा प्रभाव न पड़े?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) से (घ) सितम्बर, 1996 से मार्च, 1997 तक करीब 7 माह का अन्तराल था जब नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद उपभोक्ताओं को बिल नहीं भेज सकी क्योंकि बिजली और पानी के बिल तैयार करने हेतु एक प्राइवेट ठेकेदार को दिया गया ठेका कतिपय अनियमितताओं के कारण रद्द करना पड़ा था तथा इस प्रयोजनार्थ एक इन-हाउस कम्प्यूटर प्रणाली स्थापित करने और बिल बनाने के प्रयोजनार्थ इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे साफ्टवेयर को अद्यतन करने में नई दिल्ली नगर पालिका परिषद को कुछ समय लगा। अब उपभोक्ताओं को बिल नियमित रूप से भेजे जा रहे हैं।

ISI Activities in North-East

2687. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is active in the North-Eastern region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to curb the activities of ISI in the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There are reports of ISI providing training, arms, etc. to North-Eastern insurgents.

(c) The Police and Intelligence Organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever these come to notice. Also a series or steps have been taken including legal measures and diplomatic initiatives to curb and contain terrorist and criminal activities in the country.